



STATE OF INDIANA
Department of Correction

Indiana Government Center – South

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Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.
Governor

J. David Donahue
Commissioner

For Immediate Release

Prison Work crew Saves Indiana War Memorials over \$120,000

Indianapolis, Indiana – (February 1, 2007) – The Indiana Department of Correction Commissioner J. David Donahue and J. Stewart Goodwin, Brigadier General, IN ANG, Executive Director, Indiana War Memorials Commission signed a contract today to maintain the largest green space area in downtown Indianapolis. A supervised offender work crew has been assigned to perform landscaping duties on the 24-acre property of the Indiana War Memorials, one of the most-visited historical tourist destinations in the state.

“The appearance of this great community is our collective responsibility,” said Commissioner J. David Donahue. “We encourage communities to reach out to the Department so we can help make Indiana a great place to live and work.”

“The recent partnership with the Indiana War Memorials (IWM) and the Indiana Department of Correction provides a great way for state agencies to work together. The citizens of Indiana deserve to have their tax dollars and resources utilized to get the most bang for the buck,” said General Goodwin.

The agreement will allow IWM to reduce operating costs, while allowing work crews to learn transferable work skills upon release into the community. Offenders from the Indiana Women’s Prison will mow the grass, plant flowers, trim trees and shovel snow to maintain the surrounding area of the monuments in downtown.

“We are confident this arrangement will allow us to maintain the property at the high level the citizens of Indiana have come to expect,” added Goodwin.

In 2006, the total hours of community service by work crews totaled 821,957, equaling \$4,233,078.55 cost savings to the tax payers of Indiana. Special cleaning projects included Earth Day, Final Four Clean up and Fall Foliage – all endorsed by Governor Mitch Daniels.

“We are very excited about this partnership because it is a win-win for both agencies,” said Commissioner J. David Donahue. “Prison work crews have been actively involved beautifying Indiana’s landscape, from North to South, and East to West, in numerous community projects.”

In addition to the on-going community maintenance projects, Indiana Department of Correction work crews were critical in responding to several natural disasters over the past year two years. Governor Daniels offered full support to communities by deploying the available recourses in the Department to respond to a tornado clean up in Evansville and provided emergency crews to clean up La Porte County after hurricane forced winds blew off Lake Michigan.



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For more information on requesting work crew improvement projects in your local communities, please contact the Indiana Department of Correction, Deputy Commissioner of Administration, Bruce Lemmon at 317.232.5723.

About the Indiana Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.

About the Indiana War Memorials

The Indiana War Memorial Plaza Historic District, in the heart of downtown Indianapolis, is composed of predominantly Neo-classical buildings and structures, landscaped open space, and sculptural ensembles. The district is flanked on the west by Meridian Street, the primary north-south route running through the center of the city and on the east by Pennsylvania Street. Because of its location between two primary north-south traffic arteries, the Plaza provides a monumental entrance to the Indianapolis business district from the north. Click here for more information: <http://www.in.gov/iwm/>.

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